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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DOE-11 SOE-02 /075 W
----------102125 311651Z /43
R 311225Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3825
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, WZ
SUBJECT: SWAZILAND DETAINEES

REF: A. 77 MBABANE 1888; B. 77 MBABANE 2531 (NOTAL) C. 77 MBABANE A-5
7

1. IN A LONG EXPECTED MOVE, THE GOS DECLARED THREE SWAZI CITIZENS WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED DURING 1977 AS "PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS." JOHN WALDER, PETER FORBES AND BERYL RAS ALL WILL BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR SWAZILAND CITIZENSHIP IN ORDER THAT THEY CAN BE DPORTED FROM SWAZILAND. MRS. RAS HAD BEEN RELEASED AND LEFT SWAZILAND IN LATE
1977.

2. A FOURTH WELL-KNOWN DETAINEE, PRINCE DUMISA DLAMINI, PRESENTS MORE OF A PROBLEM FOR THE GOS. AS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, HE CANNOT EASILY BE DEPRIVED OF HIS CITIZENSHIP
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AND DEPORTED. DUMISA WAS, IN REALITY, THE ONLY POLITICAL THREAT TO THE REGIME AND NO WORD IS AVAILABLE ON HIS CASE.

3. COMMENT: RAS, WALKER, AND FORBES, EACH FOR DIFFERENT REASONS HAD COME INTO CONFLICT WITH THE TRADITIONALIST SECTOR OF SWAZILAND AND WERE BEING HELD AS POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE BACKGROUND REASONS FOR THE DETENTIONS

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(UNGUARDED COMMENTS ABOUT CONDITIONS IN SWAZILAND OR
ROYAL FAMILY MEMBERS) WERE NOT SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT
ARREST OR A LAW SUIT UNDER WESTERN LAW. BUT
THESE REMARKS COULD NOT BE LEFT UNCHALLENGER BY GOS --
THEY WEERE TOO DAMAGING TO THE PRESTIGE OF THE KING AND
ROYAL FAMILY. AGAIN, THE RULING TRADITIONALIST ELEMENT
USED THE POLICE POWERS OF THE WESTERN-STYLE GOVERNMENT
TO ENFORCE TRADITIONALIST AUTHORITY AND VALUES.

4. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS RESOLUTION OF THE DETAINEES
SITUATION WILL RECEIVE WIDE PUBLICITY IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN
PRESS, WITH THE IMPLIED LESSON THAT THESE ARE THE
FRUITS OF BLACK MAJORITY RULE.

5. WALKER AND FORBES BOTH FACE THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING
STATLESS PERSONS. THE UK HIGH COMMISSION INFORMED EMBOFF
THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY EITHER FORBES OR WALKER,
OR ANYONE ON THEIR BEHALF, CONCERNING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.
EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT RSA WILL ALLOW BOTH MEN INTO COUNTRY.
WALKER POTENTIALLY HAS A CLAIM ON UK TRAVEL DOCUMENT; FORBES
DOES NOT. SINCE MRS. RAS HAS BEEN IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR SEVERAL
WEEKS, WE ASSUME THAT GOS MADE SOME ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING
HER ENTRY AND THAT SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR
WALKER AND FORBES.
WACHOB

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